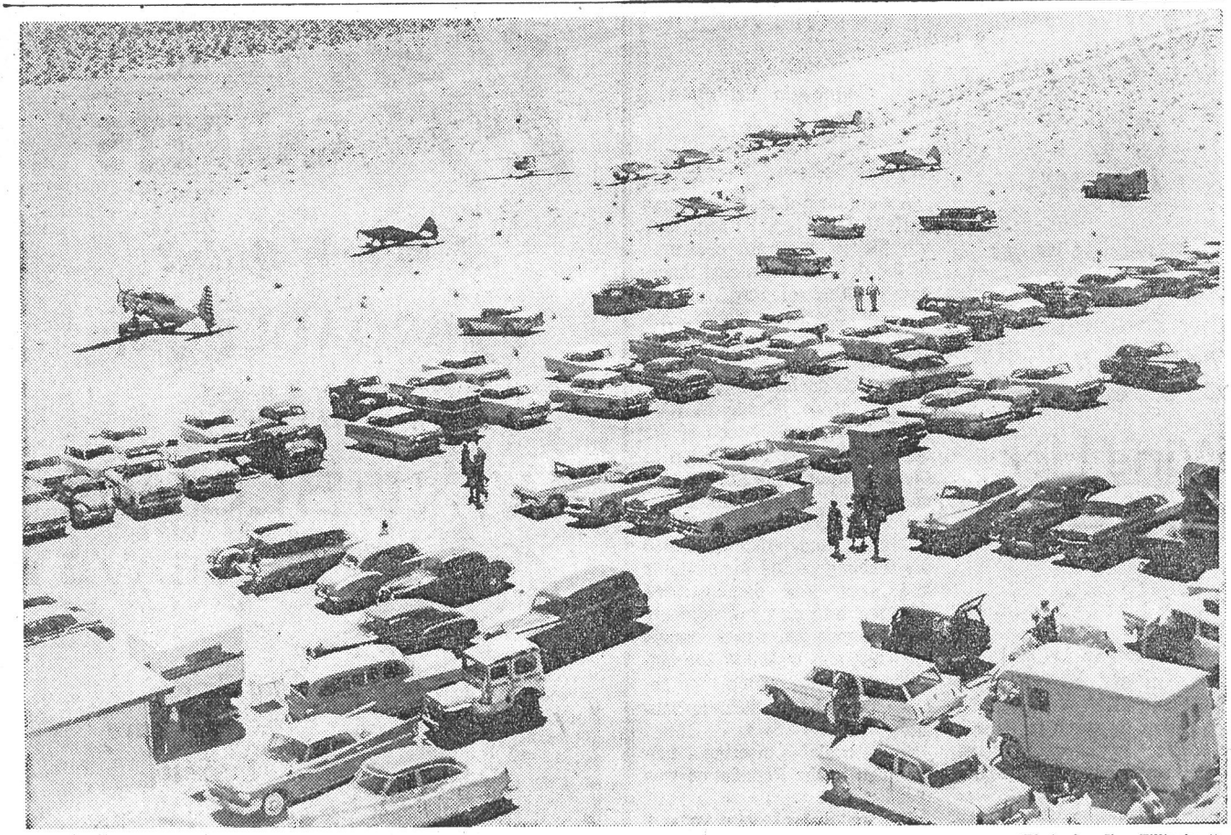
Mesa A

Mesa B



(Photo by Jim Tillinghast)

This is an overall scene at the weekend Fifth Annual Spacecraft Convention at Giant Rock Airport north of Yucca Valley. An estimated 3,000 persons showed up for the conclave about flying saucers and such. Identifiable flying objects on the ground are airplanes which transported some to the convention.

Discord Livens Spacecraft Confab

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Earthman Van Tassell Leery of Prince From Far Planet

By DEE RIDPATH

GIANT ROCK, May 24. — They came in droves to hear and gaze and to wonder and they were still at it late today as the Fifth Annual Spacecraft Convention came to a close after two days.

And those who were not skeptics "saw" outer space visitors and oohed and aahed at the phenomena.

It was a great day in the great out-of-doors at the Giant Rock Airport 17 miles north of Yucca Valley as thousands of flying saucer enthusiasts gathered with their portable chairs and their sunglasses — the better to observe outer space visitors who many swore were there.

AND GEORGE W. Van Tassell, owner of the airport and sponsor of the annual affair, was harrassed by a visitor from outer space who split the audience into two camps.

Van Tassell's claim to fame [illegible] his avowed observation of flying saucers and his many interviews with their crews at Giant Rock.

He was kept busy today trying to ascertain and to refute the claims of a self-styled visitor from the planet Tythan — which, the visitor claimed, is eight and a half light years into the darkness of space.

Drawing hundreds of space fans away from the main speaking platforms was Tythan's Prince Neasom and his wife, Princess Negonna. They were garbed in elaborate space suits with needlework designs of crosses, rainbows and sacred hearts.

PRINCE Neasom, claiming to be 250 years old — he did have snaggled teeth — told his fans that "the Master" sent him to Earth and gave him the down-to-earth name of Lee Childers.

His wife, Princess Negonna, is 10 years younger, he said, and she looked it.

And the Prince and his wife live as common, ordinary earth people in the town of Toledo, Ohio.

But Prince Neasom spends a lot of time traveling and he said that he made his first journey into outer space at the tender age of eight years. His teeth, he said, are his second growth.

Prince Neasom said he had made many trips since. He told his audience that Planet Tythan has 40 billion Tythanites on it and that the animals there all look like sheep.

TYTHAN'S weather is much like that on earth, said the prince.

He said a lot of other things — things that did not set well with Van Tassell, the leader of the flying saucer folk here on earth.

And Van Tassell kept his top aide, Daniel Boone, busy running back and forth to find out what the prince was saying.

Boone, who has lived at Giant Rock for six years, said he remembered the time some years back when a flying saucer landed on the roof of Jefferson Elementary School in Riverside.

VAN TASSELL, who has been presiding over outer space visitors and such earthly things as gassing up earthly airplanes at the airport for 11 years now, claimed that Prince Neasom was an interloper. People from outer space, he scoffed, have good, strong teeth and they drive — when they're forced to make earth their abode—Cadillacs.

Van Tassell said Prince Neasom fit neither of these authenticities — because didn't the prince drive some van-like vehicle with a foreign car trademark on it and didn't the prince have car trouble three times during the annual weekend convention.

THIS ATTACK on the slender prince left not one of his gray hairs ruffled as he continued with his talks.

Why, the prince said, he would prove his point and summon one of the flying saucers that he had been hovering just over the horizon.

As he sent out his call for a flying saucer to come skimming in over the horizon to prove his point, everyone looked. And everyone saw it — everyone, that is, except the die-hard skeptics and they appeared to be a minority.

There were a myriad of outer space adventures told and retold by the believers.

ONE MAN avowed he had made 250 trips into the dark reaches. The first passage, however, left him unaware of what had happened because he was not adjusted to such time travel and he was overwhelmed to the point that he did not know what had happened. He made the trips with flying saucer friends who picked him up from time to time.

The spokesman, along with all the other travelers into outer space, found their saucer crews to be among the friendliest of people.

Van Tassell came up with an amazing project for which the crowd expressed not a little enthusiasm. He plans a four-story structure on the desert, he said, to house his "revitalizing" machine which will revitalize folks and make them live longer. "And if you're revitalized," he says, "you can't help but live longer."

There were many fantstic inventions described at the convention.

One man had an invention to recapture television shows that had been put into the airwaves five years ago.

Cynics suggested that they'd already seen films on television that were at least 25 years old.

As speakers told of their experiences the enthusiasm spread. As the afternoon wore on, many fingers pointed excitedly toward each tiny cloud that pushed its way across the bright sky. They were clouds — at least — to the skeptical.

OVERLOOKING THE
GREAT MOJAVE DESERT

ELEVATION
4000 FEET

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Oct 2 1954

Dear Mr Wilson:

Your fascinating and informative letter of Sept 18 has just caught up with me and even now I am on the wing, having sublet my place here for the winter and having leased a place in Palm Springs, chiefly because here my kids had to ride (90 miles round trip) to school. My address ther e will be P.O. Box 56.

Now to your letter. I sure would like to have a look at prints of that UP photograph of J Bjornulf. Id lke to keep it about ten days when I can get to Hollywood and have Rev Marley and other cop cameramen to look at it,too.

That Muroc, Edwards Air base! Lousy with rumors and more mystery than a Craig Rice murder. I had the first of it within days and since then it has built. But it isn't too straight yet, and when it is I'll tell you. Best.

THIS IS AN EXACT COPY OF A LETTER RECEIVED FROM UNITED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHER JOHNNY BJORNULF, FROM FREDRIKSSTAD, NORWAY DATED THERE, 31, July, 1954, AND RECEIVED IN SANTA BARBARA, CALIF. 25, AUG., 1954

Mr. George C. Wilson, 1517 Bluff Drive,
Santa Barbara, Calif.-

"Inclosed follows two pictures of flying saucers. They are enlarged from 16 mm. colour film, number two is taken one second before number seven. Camera speed was 32 pictures pr. second. Many thanks for your interest"-signed J. Bjornulf. THEN THE FOLLOWING WAS ADDED

JULY, 17, 1954--- " AN INEXPLAINABLE PHENOMENON"-says Astronomer Brahde.- The "flying saucers" have dragon-shaped tails and are NOT CAUSED BY REFLEXES OR LENSFAILURES.-

Yesterday "Aftenposten" had the opportunity to see the film shot by Johnny Bjornulf during the eclipse. Present was astronomer ROLF BRAHDE. What above all interest were the pictures where the "flying saucers" were visable. It was a fantastic sight to see the "flying saucers", 2 strong illuminant objects, travel across the sky in the opposite direction of the aircraft. It may be remembered from the pictures published earlier in "Aftenposten", that the "flying saucers" were located in the upper left corner of the pictures. It is beyond doubt that the objects are travelling at high speed and with considerable descent. One of the "saucers" descends steeper than the other one. In the original film and in the copies may be seen 2 distinctive visable stripes in connection with the "saucer", 2 stripes in the front and 2 in the rear. The stripes form an angle from the aft tip of the flying object. The aft of the 2 "flying saucers" produces a brighter field in the sky together with the stripes above mentioned. The same type of bright area might also be seen from the other stripes ahead, but does not reach further back than 'till the next line behind.

The angle-lines at the dragon-shaped tail resembles very much the shock waves produced when the object travels at SUPER-SONIC SPEED. The "dragon" is longer on the upper side than below. This may perhaps be caused by thinner air on the upper side. It is, however, at present very difficult to give any explanation of this phenomenon. Astronomer Brahde, who was present when the film was shown, states that he cannot give any reasonable explanation either of this mystery. "We are facing a very strange thing", he says, "AND ACCORDING TO MY OPINION, IT IS NOT ANY FAILURE OF THE LENS OF THE FILM-CAMERA. THE 'SAUCERS' ARE NOT METEOROLITES, BECAUSE THEY WOULD HAVE DESCENDED AT A FAR GREATER SPEED THAN THE 2 OBJECTS REGISTERED ON MR. BJORNULF'S FILM. The theory of reflexes is also excluded. Further, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IT IS A SORT OF FLASH LIGHT, because the aircraft was traveling far above the cloud strata and because the aircraft was in an area completely free of cirrus-clouds. The illuminant objects may, however, be dark. Anyhow the sunlight has possibly contributed to make them strongly illuminant, and I do believe that we are facing some sort of emmissions in the stratosphere. This means that THE OBJECTS RECEIVE ENERGY FROM THE SUN. I am not able to give any explanations of the "flying saucers" or of the connected shock-waves", - Mr. Rolf Brahde states.

It is beyond doubt that we are facing one of the most curious phenomenons in space, and that the science here has got a difficult problem to explain.

The film was shot from three cameras, from the left side of the aircraft, it is to the North, because the central line of the eclipse was followed from the west, when the "saucers" were 'shot'.